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FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR A/S/PRM, PRM/P, EUR/WE, AND IO/D
USAID FOR A/AID, AA/DCHA, AA/ANE, DCHA/FFP, PPC/DP, PPC/DC
USDA/FAS FOR U/S PENN, MCHAMBLISS, BGAINOR AND VHUNTER
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH/USAID
BRUSSELS FOR USEU AMBASSADOR AND USAID/KFULLER
USUN FOR AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE AND LSHESTACK
PARIS FOR OECD
NAIROBI FOR USAID/REDSO, BAMAKO FOR USAID/NESTES
OMB FOR TSTOLL
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM
EXECUTIVE BOARD, ROME, FEBRUARY 11-14, 2002

SUMMARY

1. DESPITE OBJECTIONS TO THE PROCESS, THE BOARD WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO'S INTENTION IS APPOINT JAMES T. MORRIS (AMCIT) AS THE NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. ON WFP'S SIZABLE CASH AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, THE BOARD REQUESTED THAT A DETAILED ANALYSIS BE PROVIDED OF THE REASONS FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL OF CASH BALANCES AND THAT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CASH BALANCES BE INDICATED BY WFP'S SECRETARIAT LATEST OCTOBER 2002. THE UNITED STATES AND THE

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION REQUESTED THAT A REVISED INDIRECT SUPPORT COST (ISC) RATE, BASED ON ACTUALS FROM THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM, BE PRESENTED TO THE MAY 2002 BOARD SESSION AND THAT ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE AT THAT TIME APPLICABLE FOR CY 2002 ISC CHARGES. WFP COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR YEMEN AND BHUTAN TOTALING USD 54.7 MILLION WERE APPROVED, AS WELL AS A COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINE (CSO) FOR MAURITANIA. PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS (PRROS) FOR UGANDA, ETHIOPIA, INDONESIA, BURMA, NEPAL AND SUDAN, TOTALING USD 248.1 MILLION WERE APPROVED EN BLOC. BOTH USAID ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW NATSIOS AND EC COMMISSIONER POUL NEILSON ADDRESSED THE BOARD. THIS SESSION MARKED THE FINAL BOARD APPEARANCE OF CATHERINE BERTINI WHOSE TENURE AS WFP'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFTER TEN YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, ENDS APRIL 5. END SUMMARY.

CATHERINE BERTINI'S REPLACEMENT - "IN LOGIC PROCESS AND RESULTS ARE EQUIVALENT. (THEREFORE NO SURPRISES)."

2. ON MONDAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 11, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO DR. JACQUES DIOUF ADDRESSED THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ANNOUNCED THE INTENTION OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIMSELF AS DG FAO TO APPOINT JAMES T. MORRIS (AMCIT) AS THE NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM EFFECTIVE APRIL 2002. SEVERAL OECD MEMBERS TOOK STRONG OBJECTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT CLAIMING THAT THE SPIRIT OF WFP'S GENERAL REGULATION (ARTICLE VII.2) WHICH REQUIRES THAT "THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (FAO) AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD" HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY FOLLOWED.

3. THE LEGAL COUNSEL OF FAO WAS ASK TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD AND PROVIDE A LEGAL OPINION ON THE MEANING OF "CONSULTATION." THE OPINION RENDERED IS AS FOLLOWS: "WITH REFERENCE TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM 'CONSULTATION', THE OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE MEANING OF THE EXPRESSION 'IN CONSULTATION WITH' AND 'AFTER CONSULTATION WITH' IN THE PRACTICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE VIEWS OF THE PARTIES CONSULTED ARE SOUGHT OR ASCERTAINED, AND THAT IT MUST BE DISTINGUISHED FROM 'AGREEMENT', 'CONCURRENCE' OR 'CONSENT'."

4. THE BOARD WAS HOWEVER CAREFUL TO SEPARATE THE SPECIFIC CANDIDACY AND QUALIFICATIONS OF JAMES T. MORRIS FROM THIS ARGUMENT ON PROCESS, AND "REQUESTED THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD TO ADDRESS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TO INFORM HIM OF THE DESIRE OF THE BOARD TO WORK WITH HIM IN CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS COLLABORATION."

5. ON A SEPARATE ITEM UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS," THE BOARD "REGRETTED THAT THE CURRENT APPLICATION OF ARTICLE VII.2 HAD NOT MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT A CLEAR AND SATISFACTORY CONSULTATION," AND "PROPOSED THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO CARRY OUT FUTURE CONSULTATIONS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE

MANNER. TO THAT END, IT REQUESTED THE BUREAU TO EXAMINE THE MATTER AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD."

BERTINI ANALYZES "A DECADE OF CHANGE" AT WFP

16. CATHERINE BERTINI OPENED THE BOARD SESSION ON FEBRUARY 11 BY DESCRIBING KEY CHANGES AT WFP OVER THE PERIOD 1992-2002, AND SUMMARIZED THE CHALLENGES THAT REMAIN. SHE FOCUSED ON HOW WFP HAS BUILT ITS CAPACITY TO DELIVER FOOD AID TO THE HUNGRY POOR. KEY STEPS INCLUDE THE USD 40 MILLION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FMIP), EXTENSIVE DECENTRALIZATION, INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF GENDER EQUALITY, SHARPENING THE GEOGRAPHIC TARGETING OF FOOD AID FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ORGANIZATION'S ENHANCED EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITY.

17. IN 2001, BERTINI COMMENTED THAT WFP SHIPPED 3.9 MILLION METRIC TONS, MEETING 83 PERCENT OF OVERALL TONNAGE REQUIREMENTS. CONFIRMED CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALED NEARLY USD 1.9 BILLION. BERTINI REGRETTED THAT FOOD AID FOR WFP'S DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HAD FURTHER DECLINED TO USD 273 MILLION (14.4 PERCENT OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM) DESPITE THE SUBSTANTIAL CY 2001 U.S. GLOBAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTION. SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE TOP FIVE DONORS (UNITED STATES, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY) HAD CONTRIBUTED 80 PERCENT OF WFP'S 2001 BUDGET AND REMARKED ON WFP'S NEED TO BROADEN ITS DONOR BASE WITH OTHER OECD COUNTRIES.

18. BERTINI DIRECTLY ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS. ON THE ISSUE OF "SURPLUS COMMODITIES" (FROM THE UNITED STATES UNDER SECTION 416(B)), SHE ASKED: "WHAT IS WRONG WITH SURPLUS WHEN IT IS TARGETED TO CHRONICALLY FOOD INSECURE POPULATIONS?" SHE RENEWED HER APPEAL FOR GREATER UN SECURITY ATTENTION FOR HUMANITARIAN STAFF IN EMERGENCIES, COMMENTING THAT "OF THE 200 PLUS UN STAFF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY OVER THE PAST DECADE, ONLY 3 CULPRITS WERE EVER HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DEATHS OF THESE UN STAFFERS."

19. SHE ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON UN REFORM ISSUES. BERTINI REITERATED THAT ALL UN ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE TERM LIMITS; THAT DONOR GOVERNMENTS SHOULD REQUIRE CLOSER COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE WORLD BANK/IMF AND UN DEVELOPMENT/RELIEF AGENCIES; THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR GREATER STAFF INTERCHANGE BETWEEN THE THREE UN AGENCIES BASED IN ROME; THAT DONORS SHOULD CALL A HALT TO THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF UN "SUMMITS;" AND THAT THE BOARD SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON BROAD STRATEGIC ISSUES (E.G., INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, UN AGENCIES WORKING WITH THE MILITARY IN RELIEF OPERATIONS) RATHER THAN ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECT APPROVALS.

ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS AND EC COMMISSIONER NEILSON RESPOND

110. BOTH USAID ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW NATSIOS AND EC COMMISSIONER (DEVELOPMENT) POUL NEILSON ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON FEBRUARY 11. NATSIOS ON BEHALF OF THE USG THANKED BERTINI FOR TEN YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD'S HUNGRY POOR, COMMENTING THAT "THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HER STAFF OVER THIS PAST DECADE HAVE GREATLY ADVANCED BOTH WFP'S INTERNAL REFORMS AND THE OVERALL UN REFORM AGENDA." NATSIOS NOTED THAT OVERALL DONOR SUPPORT TO WFP 1992-2001 TOTALED USD 15.54 BILLION, OF WHICH THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTED USD 6.38 BILLION (41 PERCENT). NOTE: WITHIN THE UN-SYSTEM, ONLY THE UNDP SURPASSES WFP IN DONOR SUPPORT. END NOTE.

111. NATSIOS SPECIFICALLY CITED WFP EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN WHERE, SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, WFP HAD DELIVERED NEARLY 300,000 METRIC TONS OF FOOD AT AN UNPRECEDENTED RATE AVERAGING MORE THAN 2,000 TONS PER DAY TO ASSIST SOME 6.6 MILLION PEOPLE. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE FOOD THAT WENT INTO AFGHANISTAN OVER THIS PERIOD THROUGH WFP CAME FROM THE UNITED STATES. IN GENERAL, HE LAUDED THE SIGNIFICANT STEPS TAKEN BY WFP OVER THE PAST DECADE TOWARDS STRENGTHENING ITS EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SERC) CAPACITY.

112. NATSIOS ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT THE U.S. REMAINS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING LEADERSHIP IN SUPPLYING FOOD AID TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE. HE COMMENTED THAT SUPPORT FOR FOOD AID IS EVEN MORE VITAL IN THIS NEW ERA OF TERRORIST THREATS AS HUNGER LEADS TO DESPERATION, AND POTENTIALLY, VIOLENCE. HE UNDERLINED HOWEVER THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT THAT WFP BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE MEASURABLE PROGRESS AND REAL IMPACT IN ITS FOOD ASSISTANCE EFFORTS.

113. EC COMMISSIONER (DEVELOPMENT) POUL NIELSON REMARKED

THAT THE EC, WHILE "AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO WFP," WAS NOT "AN EASY PARTNER." HE QUESTIONED THE PRESENT MODE OF CALCULATING INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS, POSTULATED THAT THE PRESENT ISC RATE WAS "TOO HIGH," AND REQUESTED THAT A REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE RATE BE INSTITUTED BY OCTOBER 2002.

14. NEILSON PROCEEDED TO CLARIFY THE EC POSITION ON FOOD AID AS FOLLOWS: "WE DO NOT REGARD FOOD AID AS AN APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT TO CREATE LONG-TERM FOOD SECURITY, BUT RATHER AS AN ESSENTIAL INSTRUMENT FOR EMERGENCY AND HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS TO LINKING RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND AS AN ELEMENT OF SAFETY NET STRATEGIES FOR PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION." HE INDICATED THAT THE EC WOULD MAKE SURE THAT DEVELOPMENT FOOD AID "BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE ATTENTION IN THE WTO TRADE AGENDA."

15. ON WFP'S PRROS, NEILSON URGED FURTHER WFP THINKING, PARTICULARLY ON LINKING IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS TO RECOVERY/DEVELOPMENT. ON RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT, HE OPINED THAT "MOST OF THE DONORS, INCLUDING THE EC HAVE NOT YET DELIVERED. EVERYONE IS ASKING FOR INDICATORS. WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO PRETEND THAT THE WORLD IS SIMPLER THAN IT REALLY IS."

WFP CASH MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW OF WFP FINANCIAL BALANCES OF PROJECTS CLOSED PRIOR TO 2001

16. THE BOARD NOTED THE PRESENT LEVEL OF WFP'S CASH BALANCES, AND REVIEWED THE ORGANIZATION'S LEVEL OF FINANCIAL INVESTMENT AND INVESTMENT POLICY. ON CASH BALANCES, IT REQUESTED THAT A DETAILED ANALYSIS BE PROVIDED OF THE REASON FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL OF CASH BALANCES AND THAT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CASH BALANCES BE INDICATED BY WFP'S SECRETARIAT LATEST OCTOBER 2002.

17. ON ACCOUNTS CLOSED PRIOR TO 2001 AND RECENTLY MIGRATED INTO THE NEW WFP INFORMATION NETWORK AND GLOBAL SYSTEM (WINGS), THE BOARD ASK THE SECRETARIAT TO COMPLETE ITS ANALYSIS AND ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL DONORS TO CLEAR ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND BALANCES OF CLOSED PROJECTS.

18. ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS COMMENTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD OFTEN RAISED THE ISSUE OF WFP'S SIZABLE CASH BALANCES AND THAT THESE AMOUNTS SHOULD BE REASONABLY MODEST. HE ENDORSED THE POSITION OF THE UN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ) THAT THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM PROVIDE SOONEST A DETAILED ANALYSIS AS TO THE APPROPRIATE CASH BALANCE LEVEL NEEDED TO CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS.

19. HE SUPPORTED THE POSITION OF THE EC (PARA 13 ABOVE) THAT THE WFP PRESENT ITS ANALYSIS OF INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS (ISC) TO THE MAY 2002 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THAT ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE AT THAT TIME IN ITS PERCENTAGE RATE, APPLICABLE FOR CY 2002 ISC CHARGES.

20. FINALLY, NATSIOS ALSO FAVORED TASKING WFP'S EXTERNAL AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ITS CONSIDERED OPINION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE APPROPRIATE CASH BALANCE LEVEL AT THE TIME OF ITS PRESENTATION OF THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM ACCOUNTS IN OCTOBER 2002.

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS - PRROS

21. PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS FOR UGANDA (USD 102.9 MILLION); ETHIOPIA (USD 40.36 MILLION); INDONESIA/INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND URBAN POOR (USD 65.5 MILLION); BURMA/NORTH RAKINE STATE RETURNEES (USD 6.84 MILLION); NEPAL/BHUTANESE REFUGEES (USD 8.5 MILLION) SUDAN/ERITREAN REFUGEES (USD 7.43 MILLION); AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (EXCLUDING KOSOVO) (USD 16.53 MILLION) -TOTALING OVERALL USD 248.13 MILLION- WERE APPROVED EN BLOC BY THE BOARD. NOTE: USDEL MET SEPARATELY WITH WFP REGIONAL MANAGERS ON THESE AND OTHER MAJOR WFP OPERATIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS. SEPTTEL WILL PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE ALGERIA PRRO - ASSISTANCE TO WESTERN SAHARA REFUGEES. END NOTE.

APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAMS - 2002-2007 - WFP'S 2002 DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO FUNDING IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

22. THE BOARD APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: BHUTAN, USD 14.7 MILLION; AND YEMEN, USD 40 MILLION. IN ADDITION, A COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINE FOR MAURITANIA WAS APPROVED.

23. ON THE WIDER ISSUE OF GLOBAL FOOD AID NEEDS FOR WFP'S DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO FOR CY 2002, THESE ARE CURRENTLY

ESTIMATED AT 1.2 MILLION TONS VALUED AT USD 389 MILLION. BASED ON AN ANALYSIS OF THE EXPECTED LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE AMOUNT OF CARRY-OVER PLEDGES FROM 2001, WFP ESTIMATES A CURRENT SHORTFALL OF 571,000 METRIC TONS (USD 180.2 MILLION), OR 46 PERCENT OF REQUIREMENTS. THE FORECAST AVAILABILITY, 660,000 METRIC TONS (USD 208.8 MILLION) REPRESENTS THE LOWEST LEVEL OF RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

HARMONIZATION OF PROGRAMMING PROCESSES AMONG THE UN FUNDS
AND PROGRAMS

124. THE BOARD REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL AND MORE DETAILED REPORT PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/56/201 "TRIENNIAL POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM." IT RECOMMENDED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ROME - AND NEW YORK - BASED BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUNDS AND PROGRAMS BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH WFP BOARD PARTICIPATION IN THE JOINT MEETING(S) OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA AND UNICEF.

125. USDEL APPLAUDED THE RECENTLY ISSUED "IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMON COUNTRY ASSESSMENT (CCA)/ UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (UNDAF) PROCESS," BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN (OCTOBER 2001) - THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE EITHER DEVELOPED OR ARE DEVELOPING BROAD-BASED NATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES (PRSP) AND HENCE CCA/UNDAF GUIDELINES "BE ADJUSTED TO REFLECT THIS MAJOR AND POSITIVE CHANGE."

126. USDEL ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WFP PURSUE WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES, AS PART OF THE UNDAF PROCESS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON TOOLS TO MONITOR PROGRESS AND EVALUATE OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMS, AS RECOMMENDED AT THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE UNDP/UNFPA 2001 EXECUTIVE BOARD.

PAPER ON NON-FOOD COMPONENTS OF RELIEF INTERVENTION IN THE
HORN OF AFRICA

127. THE PRINCIPAL FINDING OF THIS PAPER RELATED TO THE CY 2000 DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WAS THAT, IN ORDER TO ENABLE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES TO EFFECTIVELY RECOVER FROM DROUGHTS OF THIS MAGNITUDE, BOTH FOOD AND NON-FOOD SHORTFALLS NEEDED TO BE RESOURCED AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY. IN SHORT, IN ADDITION TO FOOD, URGENT DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS WERE REQUIRED PARTICULARLY FOR INTERVENTIONS IN THE WATER, HEALTH, LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURAL AND SEED SECTORS. FOOD AID ALONE AS AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE IS NOT ENOUGH.

128. USDEL COMMENTED THAT, GIVEN RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, THERE IS A CLEAR NEED FOR UN AGENCIES TO BE ABLE TO BETTER DEMONSTRATE COST EFFICIENCIES, ECONOMIES OF SCALE, AND THE UN'S ABILITY, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO OBTAIN HOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. MOREOVER, THE UN AGENCIES NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RIGOR IS SYSTEMATICALLY APPLIED TO THE CONSOLIDATED APPEALS (CAP) PROCESS IN ORDER TO AVOID "INFLATING THE NUMBERS." THE UPCOMING UN CAP REVIEW (MONTREUX) SHOULD PROVIDE A GOOD UN INTERAGENCY AND DONOR FORUM TO FURTHER "STREAMLINE" THE CAP.

HOMAGE TO OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BERTINI

129. ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 14, A VIDEO PRESENTATION BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL ANNAN, SPEECHES BY IFAD DIRECTOR BAGE AND FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL HARCHARIK, WRITTEN TESTIMONIES OF UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BELLAMY, UNHCR COMMISSIONER LUBBERS, UNDP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MALLOCK BROWN, AND THE INTERVENTIONS OF 44 ROME-BASED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS - CONSTITUTED A MOVING TRIBUTE TO THE TEN YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE BY CATHERINE BERTINI AT THE HELM OF WFP.

COMMENT

130. THERE WAS NO DOWN SIDE TO THIS TRIBUTE. IN SHORT, UNIVERSAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A JOB WELL DONE. INDEED, AS ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSED BY UNICEF'S CAROL BELLAMY: "FOR ME, AS FOR OTHERS, CATHERINE HAS BEEN MORE THAN A GIFTED LEADER.

SHE HAS BEEN A GOOD AND LOYAL COLLEAGUE-AND A TRUE FRIEND.
I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS OF ONE NEW YORK GIRL TO
ANOTHER-CATHERINE THE UPSTATER AND ME THE CITY GIRL. I
THINK I SPEAK FOR A MULTITUDE-MILLIONS OF WHOM MAY NEVER
EVEN KNOW HER NAME-WHO WILL MISS HER VERY MUCH."

131. USAID ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS DID NOT CLEAR THIS CABLE
PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. HEILEMAN